(a) the domestic production of lubricants against the present demand;

(b) the manner in which the gap between production and demand is being met; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the import of lubricants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The domestic production of Lube Oil Base stock and sale of finished lubricants by the Public Sector Oil Companies during the year 1994 95 were 504 TMTs and 684 TMTs respectively. The rest of the requirement of LOBS and finished lubricants is met by imports.

(c) In order to reduce import of lube base oils, the Government have cleared the expansion projects of the existing lube refineries.

Production of Propane by GAIL

3695. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has started producing Propane as a substitute fuel for liquid petroleum gas (LPG) early this year and has also started marketing the same, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the daily production of Propane in the country and the places where it is produced;

(d) the cost efficiency of Propane vis-a-vis LPG;

(e) whether the Propane is likely to be produced in a big way in the country, to make-up the deficiency of LPG;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for promoting the use of Propane as a substitute for LPG in the domestic and industrial market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. GAIL has started producing and marketing Propane from mid-1994.

(c) The current production is around 100 MT per month at Bijaipur.

(d) The calorific value of Propane and LPG are nearly the same whereas the Propane price is 10 per cent below that of LPG.

(e) and (f) The production of propane, is planned to be increased to the level of 350 MT per day.

(g) A concessional price has bee fixed to promote the use of Propane as a Substitute for LPG.

Prevention of Gas Flare up at Bombay High

3696. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the gas fields which are being commercially exploited at present;